

PATENT

App. Ser. No.: 09/877,392
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010089US1
PS Ref. No.: IBMK10089

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8 and 39 without prejudice, and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an interface to a driver of a vehicle, the method comprising:
receiving a vehicle identifier from the vehicle transmitted by a radio frequency identification device (RFID);
identifying the driver of the vehicle using at least the vehicle identifier; and
based on the vehicle identifier, providing to the identified driver, ~~at least one of~~ driving information ~~and consumer information~~ on a display of a pay-at-delivery system (PADS), wherein the display is integrated with the pay-at-delivery system, wherein the driving information comprises at least one of a listing of travel routes to a pay at delivery system (PADS), a vehicle recall alert, a calculation of fuel efficiency for the vehicle, and a service reminder for the vehicle.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
~~transmitting at least one of the driving information and advertising information to~~ the vehicle via a wireless network, where the driving information ~~and the advertising information~~ is configured for display in the vehicle.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising broadcasting a signal configured to elicit a transmission of the vehicle identifier from the vehicle.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the providing is performed in response to a transaction between the driver and the PADS.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the transaction comprises at least one of a receipt of a password from the driver and a receipt of a credit card number from the driver.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein identifying the driver comprises:

querying a customer database for an identity of the driver of the vehicle given the received vehicle identifier transmitted by the radio frequency identification device (RFID); and

returning, as a query result, the identity of the driver from the customer database.

8. (Canceled) The method of claim 1 wherein the driving information comprises at least one of a listing of travel routes to a pay at delivery system (PADS), a vehicle recall alert, a calculation of fuel efficiency for the vehicle, and a service reminder for the vehicle.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining whether a recall alert exists for the vehicle; and

transmitting, if the recall alert exists for the vehicle, the recall alert to the display integrated with the pay-at-delivery system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the recall alert is in a manufacturer database.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining a current mileage of the vehicle;

determining a past mileage of the vehicle when the vehicle was last serviced;

and

determining whether a difference between the current mileage and the past mileage of the vehicle is greater than a threshold mileage, where the service reminder is

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transmitted, to the display integrated with the pay-at-delivery system, as driving information if the difference is greater than the threshold mileage.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the current mileage is transmitted from the vehicle and the past mileage is in a customer database.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether an amount of gasoline consumed since a last fueling of the vehicle is available;
if so, obtaining a current mileage of the vehicle and the mileage of the vehicle when the vehicle was last fueled;
calculating a gas mileage of the vehicle from the amount of gasoline consumed, the current mileage of the vehicle and the mileage of the vehicle when the vehicle was last fueled, where the calculated gas mileage is transmitted as driving information; and
displaying the calculated gas mileage of the vehicle on the display integrated with the pay-at-delivery system.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the level amount of gasoline and the mileage of the vehicle when the vehicle was last fueled is in a customer database for the driver of the vehicle.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether a destination location of the vehicle is obtainable;
retrieving, if the destination of the vehicle is obtained, at least one route from the current location to the destination location; and
retrieving at least one of traffic information, emergency information and weather information for each route, where the traffic information, emergency information and weather information is transmitted as driving information to the display integrated with the pay-at-delivery system.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the at least one route is from a map database, the traffic information is from a transportation database, the emergency information is from a police database and the weather information is from a weather database.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the consumer information comprises an offer of credit on a future purchase, a sequence of advertisements displayed on a pay at delivery system (PADS), and an electronic mail advertisement message.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the consumer information comprises advertising information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining a grade of gasoline selected by the driver of the vehicle; and
displaying a sequence of advertisements on the display integrated with the pay at delivery system (PADS), corresponding to the selected grade of gasoline.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the determining the grade of gasoline comprises:
identifying a grade of gasoline selected from a purchase history of the driver in a customer database.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the sequence of advertisements is different for different grades of gasoline.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
determining whether a customer file for the driver is complete in a customer database;

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offering, if the customer file in the customer database is incomplete, a credit for a future purchase, where the offering of the credit is transmitted as advertising information; and

providing the credit if the driver completes the customer file.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the PADS is located at a service station.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an interface to a driver of a vehicle, the method comprising:

~~obtaining a current location of the vehicle via a wireless network;~~

determining whether a destination location of the vehicle is obtainable;

retrieving, if the destination of the vehicle is obtained, at least one route from the current location to the destination location;

retrieving, for each route retrieved, at least one of traffic information, emergency information and weather information; and

providing the retrieved traffic information, emergency information and weather information on a display at a pay-at-delivery system (PADS), wherein the display is integrated with the pay-at-delivery system.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 further comprising:

transmitting the retrieved traffic information, emergency information and weather information to the vehicle via the wireless network.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the at least one route is from a map database, the traffic information is from a transportation database, the emergency information is from a police database and the weather information is from a weather database.

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28. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the providing is performed in response to a transaction between the driver and the PADS.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the transaction comprises at least one of a receipt of a password from the driver and a receipt of a credit card number from the driver.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the transaction comprises a sales transaction.

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing an interface to drivers of vehicles, the apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing a pay-at-delivery system (PADS) interface program;

a network interface for communicating with a database containing ~~at least one of~~ driving information ~~and consumer information~~;

a wireless communication device for receiving a vehicle identifier from a vehicle;

a display device integrated with the PADS for displaying ~~the at least one of~~ driving information, wherein the driving information comprises at least one of a listing of travel routes to a pay at delivery system (PADS), a vehicle recall alert, a calculation of fuel efficiency for the vehicle, and a service reminder for the vehicle ~~and consumer information~~; and

a processor, upon executing the PADS interface program, is configured to (i) initiate a request for the ~~at least one of~~ driving information ~~and consumer information~~ from the database, based on the vehicle identifier, ~~[[;]]~~ and (ii) to provide the ~~at least one of~~ driving information ~~and consumer information~~ to the display device.

32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the processor is further configured to transmit the ~~at least one of~~ driving information ~~and consumer~~

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~~information~~ to the vehicle via the wireless communication device, where the driving information ~~and the advertising information~~ is configured for display in the vehicle.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the wireless communication device is configured to broadcast a signal configured to elicit a transmission of the vehicle identifier from the vehicle.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the driving information further ~~consumer information~~ comprises a sequence of advertisements dependent upon a grade of gasoline selected by the driver.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the database comprises one of a weather database, a transportation database, a police database, a customer database, a map database and a manufacturer database.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the network interface enables communication with a server computer.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the vehicle identifier comprises a radio frequency identifier (RFID) code.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the processor is configured to provide the ~~at least one of driving information and consumer information~~ in response to a sale transacted by the driver at the pay at delivery system.

39. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 31 where the driving information comprises at least one of a listing of travel routes to a PADS, a vehicle recall alert, a calculation of fuel efficiency for the vehicle, and a service reminder for the vehicle.

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40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the driving advertising information further comprises an offer of credit on a future purchase, a sequence of advertisements displayed on the display device integrated with the pay at delivery system (PADS).

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the processor is configured to take steps to identify the driver using the vehicle identifier.